

## **V.B.2.N.f. Saturated temperate perennial forb vegetation**

### **V.B.2.N.f.13. SYMPLOCARPUS FOETIDUS–CALTHA PALUSTRIS SATURATED HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE**

Skunk Cabbage–Yellow Marsh-marigold Saturated Herbaceous Alliance

Hopewell Furnace name: Skunk Cabbage–Golden Saxifrage Forested Seep

**Concept:** This alliance, found in the Great Lakes region and northeastern Great Plains, occurs where circumneutral or slightly calcareous groundwater seeps to the surface. This alliance is dominated by forbs. *Angelica atropurpurea*, *Caltha palustris*, and *Symplocarpus foetidus* are usual dominants. Other species that may be found include *Carex lacustris*, *Carex stricta*, *Glyceria striata*, *Impatiens capensis*, and *Thelypteris palustris*. Shrubs and trees from surrounding vegetation types sometimes occur. Where the cover of these becomes significant, the site is classified as another alliance. Typical woody species include *Acer rubrum*, *Fraxinus nigra*, and *Thuja occidentalis*. Stands of this alliance are found on lower slopes of glacial moraines, ravines, and terraces around seepage areas. Peat sometimes accumulates to a depth of 1 m. Other sites have little organic material, with groundwater typically welling up through carbonate encrusted gravel.

**Comments:** This alliance often occurs as inclusions within other, usually forested, vegetation. As currently defined, this alliance includes only those sites dominated by herbaceous species. Sites that are floristically very similar but occur under a tree canopy are treated as forested seeps and swamps.

**Range:** This alliance is found in the Midwest in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, and Iowa and in Canada in Ontario.

**States/Provinces:** IA? IL IN MI MN OH? ON

**References:** Faber-Langendoen et al. 1996, MNNHP 1993, White and Madany 1978

**Authors:** MCS, Midwest

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